

CONGRATULATING EASTERN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL'S CLASSES OF 1957, 1958 AND 1959 ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 50TH YEAR CLASS REUNION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Eastern High School graduating classes of 1957, 1958, and 1959. These alumni will be remembered in the history of our country as the first African Americans to attend classes that were no longer segregated in the District of Columbia after the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. The courage and determination shown by these pioneers when they were teenagers were harbingers of the success, professional achievement, and exemplary lives that have characterized the classes of 1957, 1958, and 1959.

I ask the House to join me in honoring the 50th anniversary classes of 1957, 1958, and 1959 at Eastern High School in the Nation's capital.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AS THE HONORED SERVICE AT MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY AT EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today before you to pay tribute to the United States Coast Guard, who will be the honored service on October 18th, 2008, during Military Appreciation Day at East Carolina University's home football game against Memphis. East Carolina University, which is in my district, has long demonstrated an appreciation for the Armed Services and the incredible sacrifices their members make on a daily basis.

The United States Coast Guard operates several commands in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, which I have the privilege of representing. Among these commands is the National Strike Force Coordination Center (NSFCC), which is responsible for responding to chemical, biological, and radiological events, National Security Events, and Weapons of Mass Destruction events. The NSFCC is the command component of three subordinate teams and oversees operations of the Atlantic Strike Team, Gulf Strike Team, and Pacific Strike Team.

Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City is an Air Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Port and Waterway Patrols, and Homeland Security component. Air Station Elizabeth City also supports the Coast Guard Atlantic Area, and International Ice Patrol. Support Center Elizabeth City is responsible for providing logistical support for the tenant commands located on the Coast Guard base in Elizabeth City.

Coast Guard Station Elizabeth City deals with surface response for Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Port and Waterways Pa-

trols, and Homeland Security. The Aviation Repair and Supply Center (AR&SC) is responsible for maintaining the parts and supply inventory, technical data and conducting repairs for Coast Guard aviation assets. The Aviation Technical Training Center (ATTC) is responsible for training mechanical and electrical aviation engineers and airmen.

During the ECU game, Rear Admiral Ronald Hewitt, Commander of Maintenance and Logistics Command Atlantic Area, will serve as the senior Coast Guard representative. Petty Officer Joseph Ruggiero will assist with the coin toss. Petty Officer Ruggiero received the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart Medal for his selfless service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. A Coast Guard fly-over will precede the action on the field, and the Coast Guard will display several small boats, a dive locker, and information tables to represent various service missions.

Madam Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to all of our armed services, but especially the United States Coast Guard for their continued support and vigilance in defense of our Nation.

HONORING JAY CEE PAGE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jay Cee Page of Kansas City, Missouri. Jay is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1740, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jay has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Jay has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jay Cee Page for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN CURRY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am grateful to submit the following thoughtful memorial that ran in the Island Packet in Hilton Head Island, SC, remembering the life and service of John Curry. John was a dear friend and a lifelong leader in his community.

[From the Island Packet, Sept. 28, 2008]

A LOOK AT THE LIFE OF ISLAND TOURISM CHAMPION JOHN CURRY

(By Janet Smith and David Lauderdale)

For 35 years, John Curry had a singular impact on the development of Hilton Head Island's tourism industry and the island's place in the world.

That impact came in a determined pursuit to keep Hilton Head viable, even through the toughest of economic times, and to maintain what drew millions of visitors and the island's nearly 40,000 permanent residents here in the first place.

Curry, 78, died Friday night at Hilton Head Hospital after suffering a brain aneurysm during lunch with his wife, Valerie, and friends at the Hilton Head Yacht Club.

Only the late Charles Fraser, who carved a new community out of the forests of Sea Pines and set the stage for future planned communities, did more to shape the island's modern development. But Curry, who came to Hilton Head to work for Fraser in 1973 as executive vice president of the old Sea Pines Co., dealt with the nuts and bolts of legislation, incorporation and operations that ultimately shaped Hilton Head as a resort destination and residential community. In the process, he shaped tourism statewide.

Along the way, he played a critical role in creating the Town of Hilton Head Island and establishing the island as a year-round resort community. He also helped negotiate and get through the legislature the state accommodations tax, which has provided millions of dollars in marketing money for the local tourism industry, as well as funding for arts and cultural groups here.

CENTER OF THE STORM

Curry's work was not without controversy. He often was caught up in the clash of competing tourism and residential interests and served as a lightning rod for those who thought the island was changing for the worse. As the tourism industry's most visible spokesman, he took the heat for the industry, accused of putting self-interest over community interests.

He played that same lightning rod role at the Hilton Head Island Airport, serving on the Beaufort County Aviation Advisory Board for many years.

Native islander Perry White said he and Curry agreed on little, if anything, in 35 years of tangling on issues from incorporation of the island to expansion of the airport.

But White said their disagreements were never personal. They even swapped stories about lessons learned from their grandfathers.

"I had tremendous respect for John, and I think he had respect for me," White said. "John's contributions were tremendous. I'll miss John. He was one of the mediating forces on the Airport Advisory Board, and with all the firebrands coming on now, I'm beginning to appreciate that more."

The last time the two saw each other was at a recent Beaufort County Council committee meeting. Curry handed White a copy of a proposed charter change to the airport advisory board.

BACK FROM THE BRINK

One of Curry's toughest business challenges came in November 1986, when he was tapped to run Hilton Head's largest employer as it plunged into bankruptcy.

Curry was named trustee for Hilton Head Holdings Corp., a company that had been cobbled together from the assets of two long-time island companies—the Sea Pines Co. and the Hilton Head Co.—less than two years before. The company owned property and business operations in Sea Pines, Shipyard, Wexford, Port Royal and Indigo Run. Its collapse directly affected a third of the island, but the entire community reeled from the blow.

The company was in debt to the tune of \$100 million, 90 percent of that in real estate mortgages. But more than 2,000 creditors, many of them local businesses, were owed \$10 million.